

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7157

BILL NUMBER: HB 1561

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 30, 2003

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Release of Adoption Information.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Herrell

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: CR Adopted - 1st House

FUNDS AFFECTED: X

**GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL**

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill permits the release of the name and present address of the sibling of an adoptee if: (1) the adoptee and the sibling are over 21 years of age; and (2) the sibling consents to the release of the sibling's name and present address.

Effective Date: July 1, 2003.

Explanation of State Expenditures: This bill requires the State Registrar, the Division of Family and Children, and a county Office of Family and Children to release the name and present location of an adoptee who is at least 21 years of age if certain conditions are met. Costs associated with this bill are contingent upon whether additional staff are required to handle any increase in workload. These costs are dependent upon administrative and legislative action.

The bill allows an individual to submit a written request to the State Registrar stating that the individual is interested in being reunited with preadoptive siblings. In submitting the request the individual grants the State Registrar authorization to release identifying information to preadoptive siblings that request it. The State Registrar shall research if any related preadoptive siblings have made similar requests, and if none have, the State Registrar shall search available records for information pertaining to the preadoptive sibling. If the State Registrar locates a preadoptive sibling that has not registered, then the preadoptive sibling shall decide whether to release the identifying information to the other preadoptive sibling. If the preadoptive sibling is under 21 years of age, the State Registrar shall contact the parents of the individual for permission to release information.

Department of Health staff state that the current Vital Records Section processes an estimated 50 requests per week for information pertaining to the adoption history program. There are currently two staff in this section who spend part of their time on the adoption history program. If the provisions of this bill increase the workload of the Section, additional staff may be required.

The State Registrar may contact and shall receive information pertaining to preadoptive siblings from the Division of Vital Records, a county Office of Family and Children, a licensed child placing agency, and a professional health care provider. These entities may incur increased expenditures in complying with the requirements of this bill. These costs should be minimal. However, they cannot be determined at the current time.

A county Office of Family and Children may incur costs in providing information to the State Registrar. These costs should be minimal, however, they cannot be determined at this time.

The funds and resources required above could be supplied through a variety of sources, including the following: (1) Existing staff and resources not currently being used to capacity; (2) Existing staff and resources currently being used in another program; (3) Authorized, but vacant, staff positions, including those positions that would need to be reclassified; (4) Funds that, otherwise, would be reverted; or (5) New appropriations. Ultimately, the source of funds and resources required to satisfy the requirements of this bill will depend upon legislative and administrative actions.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: State Department of Health.

Local Agencies Affected: County Offices of Family and Children.

Information Sources: Zach Cattell, Legislative Director, State Department of Health, 317-233-2170.

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